

From: shillmann
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 10:15pm
Subject: Public Comment

Your Honor,

I have watched the personel computer industry mature for 17 years. During that time I have seen Microsoft steal, copy, or otherwise take some of the best ideas and products of smaller firms and talented individuals, disguise them as a Microsoft innovation and bundle it with their Windows operating system, effectively snuffing the life out of smaller, less powerful companies and individuals. If they can not steal the idea, they buy it and let it die on the vine. If you agree to this settlement, computer innovation will be what Mr. Gates says it should be. This industry is too vital to the future of the world economy to let it be controlled by one man or one company.

I urge you to reject this settlement offer. Do not let Microsoft, an illegal monopoly, get away with a slap on the wrist. They have abused their power in the market palce and acheived their dominant position in the industry by violating the law. They were found guilty and should be effectively punished. The punishment should open the doors to competition which will inevitably stimulate the flow of new ideas in this country and others. Competition is critical to today's information economy and I believe will ultimately force Microsoft to become a better software company. Please do not let the political motivations of the Bush justice department override the sound judgement of the trial judge who seemed to have an understanding, at a fundamental level, of the importance of a strong remedy in this critical case.

I would like to see at least two Microsoft divisions; operating system and applications. Outside application developers should have the same access to operating system interfaces as the Microsoft application company. This plan is of course not original with me but gets to the heart of the matter.

I do my computing on the Macintosh platform as it remains one of the last havens of forward thinking in the industry. Unfortunately, even Apple Computer is threatened continuously with extinction by the monopolist in Seattle who continue to copy Apple ideas to this day.

Thank you for your time.

Scott J. Hillmann, MD